

PARTNERSHIPS

Key Points

- Volunteers on the Superior National Forest (SNF) provided 36,342 hours of service at an appraised value of \$700,000
- Funding was exchanged under 50 signed agreements that provided or obligated:
 - \$663,000 worth of cash and services to the SNF from partners
 - \$683,000 worth of cash, goods and services to partners from the SNF.
- Partners and Forest Service Staff:
 - Initiated 66 new agreements
 - Enacted 28 modifications on existing agreements
 - Donated \$5,850.

A. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Forest Plan Direction

This monitoring was conducted to address Forest Plan Objective: D-CM-1 The Forest works cooperatively with other landowners and land managers to protect, enhance, and restore physical and biological resources as well as social and economic values. Cooperative management includes tribal, state, county, local governments as well as other federal agencies.

Monitoring Conducted

Partnerships and collaboration are essential to the welfare of the Superior National Forest (SNF). Since its designation as a National Forest in 1909, the SNF has benefited from the efforts of partners and volunteers working together with Forest Service staff to achieve social, economic and ecological goals.

Each year the SNF continues relationships with existing cooperators and enters into new ones. Collaboration with others resulted in increased public service and improved land stewardship which enhanced the Forest's efforts to achieve desired conditions. This overview will share information on groups and organizations with which the SNF routinely cooperates some of which the SNF has entered into formal agreements with as well as contributed by volunteers.

Volunteer Agreements

The work of volunteers provides a tremendous value to the public. Volunteers donated their time and talents to the Heritage, Recreation, Forest Management, Wildlife and Fisheries programs. Volunteer work included assisting Wilderness Rangers, improving portage and hiking trails, building steps, tree planting, coordinating with the BWCAW crews, clearing and grooming ski trails, improving recreation sites, acting as campground hosts, building boreal owl and great gray owl structures, electro-shocking

16.2 Partnerships

fish, surveying grouse, mapping avian productivity and surveying dragonflies, among other activities (Figure 16.1).

During the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008, volunteers to the SNF provided 36,342 hours of service at an appraised value of \$700,000 (Table 16.1).

Grants and Agreements

The Forest Service uses many types of agreements to facilitate its work with others. Each of these has specific Congressional legal authority and requirements. The appropriate instrument depends on what the partnership will accomplish, who will benefit and who is providing funding. The Forest Service must have appropriate statutory authority prior to entering into any agreement, which could result in the use, obligation or other commitment of any Forest Service resources.

Funding was exchanged under 50 signed agreements¹ that provided or obligated a total value of \$1,350,000 with \$663,000 worth of cash and services to the SNF from partners and \$683,000 worth of cash, goods and services to partners from the SNF (Table 16.2).

Twenty eight modifications on existing agreements were done in FY2008. These numbers include only existing agreements where additional funding was provided or collected in FY 2008. It does not include existing agreements with cooperators where funds were collected under a Special Use Agreement.

The SNF initiated 66 new agreements². Of the 66 new agreements, there were, four challenge cost share, three interagency and intra-agency, 10 participating, one law enforcement, 30 fire and 15 collection agreements along with three memorandums of understanding.

Donations

The SNF was pleased to receive \$5,850 in donations from individuals during FY2008.

Total value of Formal Agreements and Volunteers

Formal agreements and the volunteer efforts of our partners led to a tremendous amount of work on the SNF that would not have been accomplished without their help. The total value of the work provided to the SNF by our partners through grants and agreements, other non-agreement based funds and our volunteers in FY 2008 equates over \$2,055,850.

Other Cooperative Activities

The SNF cooperates with all levels of governmental entities from lake associations and townships to counties, a variety of federal entities and the State, especially the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR). The SNF has been an active member of the Minnesota Forest Resource Council (MFRC) and its subsidiaries to ensure that the efforts of all land management agencies are focused on the landscape level.

¹ Fiscal Year 2008 G&A incoming and outgoing funds for executed, closed, pending and terminated records GARPO40L

² G & A workload by Forest for Fiscal Year 2008 only GARPO10L

The Forest had numerous cooperative endeavors with non-government organizations. These informal partnerships have not been documented through the formal agreement process and are not accounted for in the numbers listed above however, they do greatly benefit the SNF. For example, the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) was a partnership between local elected officials, county officials, volunteer fire departments, MN DNR, Forest Service staff, local residents and others. These groups worked together to develop management practices across ownership to reduce the threat of wildfire while achieving the overall goal of improved forest health on a landscape scale (Figure 16.2).

Evaluation and Conclusions

The total value of the work provided by our partners through grants and agreements, special use permits, other non-agreement based funds and our volunteers equates over \$2,055,850. A breakdown of work accomplished includes the following:

- Volunteers on the Superior National Forest (SNF) provided 36,342 hours of service at an appraised value of \$700,000
- Funding was exchanged under 50 signed agreements that provided or obligated:
 - \$663,000 worth of cash and services to the SNF from partners
 - \$683,000 worth of cash, goods and services to partners from the SNF.
- Partners and Forest Service Staff:
 - Initiated 66 new agreements
 - Enacted 28 modifications on existing agreements
 - Donated \$5,850.

16.4 Partnerships

Table 16.1. Total volunteer hours on the Superior National Forest for Fiscal Years 2005-2008.

Fiscal Year	Service Provided (Hours)
2005	20,228
2006	27,308
2007	28,817
2008	36,342

Table 16.2. The monetary value of agreements for the Superior National Forest (SNF) and its partners for Fiscal Year 2005-2008.

Fiscal Year	Number of Agreements	Value of Cash & Services Provided to the SNF From Partners (\$)	Value of Cash & Services Provided to Partners From SNF (\$)
2005	71	601,995	1,178,839
2006	82	447,206	524,384
2007	71	690,490	429,291
2008	50	663,000	683,000

Figure 16.1. The Boy Scouts of America crew working on trail reconstruction on the Superior National Forest.



Figure 16.2. Superior National Forest partners from St. Louis County and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources working on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

